Damages by floods and cyclone in Wandiwash and Cheyyar taluks.

*202-A Q.—Mr. V. M. Ramaswami Mudaliyar: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the Government are aware of the extent of the damage done to huts, lands, tanks, crops, livestock, human lives, by the floods and cyclone in the Wandiwash and Cheyyar taluks of the North Arcot district;

(b) what steps have been taken by the Government for the relief of the distressed;

(c) whether the hon. Member will be pleased to lay on the table of the House, the reports of the Board of Revenue and the Collector, if any, thereon; and

(d) whether he proposes to institute an enquiry or ask the Board of Revenue to institute an enquiry as to the exact relief that has to be given—

(1) by way of remission and suspension of revenue for total or partial failure of crops;

(2) by way of advances or loans to cultivators and to the people who have been rendered homeless or whose lands have been adversely affected?

A.—(a) to (c) Copies [a] of the Collector's reports and of the references received from the Board of Revenue on the subject are attached. The Government have sanctioned a grant of Rs. 1,250 for the relief of distress as recommended by the Collector.

(d) The Government have called for a detailed report on the subject.

Mr. M. A. Manikkavelu Nayakar:—"May I know, what is the basis on which the Collector recommended only Rs. 1,250?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell:—"I must ask for notice, Sir."

Mr. M. A. Manikkavelu Nayakar:—"In the appendix the last sentence of paragraph 6 says 'I shall report on these particulars in detail after the Christmas holidays'. May I know whether any such report has been received since then?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell:—"I do not think the report has been received yet."

Mr. M. A. Manikkavelu Nayakar:—"May I know what is the cause of this inordinate delay?"

Damages by floods to tanks in North Arcot district.

*202-B Q.—Mr. M. A. Manikkavelu Nayakar: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) the number and names of tanks in each taluk of the North Arcot district including the Arni jaghir that were breached by the recent cyclone and heavy rains in the district;

(b) what steps were taken till now by the departments concerned for the early closing up of the tanks;

(c) whether any estimate of the total cost to be incurred has been submitted to Government;

(d) whether the Collector of the district has personally visited the flood-affected area and submitted any report;

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[a] Printed as Appendix V on pages 510—546 infra.

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(e) whether mahazars from villagers have been sent to the Collector praying for postponement and remission of taxes;

(f) whether the Collector has addressed the Government for the postponement of land-tax in certain cases and complete remission in other cases; and

(g) what action the Government have taken or propose to take in the matter?

A.—(a) to (d) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to the answer given to question No. 202-A. The Government have no further information.

(e) Some petitions received by Government have been transferred to the Board of Revenue.

(f) & (g) No such reports have been received.

Mr. M. A. Manikkavelu Nayakar :—"With reference to clause (d) of the question may I know whether the Collector personally visited the flood affected area?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell :—"I must ask for notice."

Mr. M. A. Manikkavelu Nayakar :—"Will the hon. the Revenue Member be pleased to visit the flood affected area?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell :—"If I can find the time, I shall be glad to visit the area."

Forest Panchayats

Rules for the management of forest panchayats.

*203 Q.—Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar: Will the hon. the Member for Revenue be pleased to state—

(a) whether the draft rules for the management of panchayat forests have been approved by the Government and if so, the date from which the rules have taken effect;

(b) whether a copy of the rules will be placed on the table of the House; and

(c) if all the unanimous recommendations of the committee who submitted the draft rules have been approved of by the Government, if not, the reasons therefor?

A.—(a) & (c) The draft Standing Order relating to Forest Panchayats is under the consideration of the Government.

(b) The suggestion will be considered.

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar :—"May I know from the hon. the Revenue Member when the draft rules were submitted to the Government?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell :—"I do not remember the exact date."

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar :—"May I know when the notice inviting objections, if any, to the proposals, was published by the Government?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell :—"I must ask for notice."

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar :—"Was a member of Government a party to the recommendations, I refer to the hon. the Chief Minister?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. Campbell :—"Yes, Sir."